Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended): A method for continuously coating cores of gum material to provide a smooth, thick shell of coating material thereon comprising:

(a) introducing sheets of gum material into a mixer;

(b) rotating said mixer to break up the sheets of gum material into individual cores of gum material;

(c) applying one or more layers of a first coating material on said cores of gum material inside said rotating mixer;

(d) continuously transferring said cores of gum material into an inlet end of a rotating drum member;

(e) transporting the cores of gum material from said inlet end to an outlet end of said drum member such that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end are substantially the first cores of material to be exhausted from said outlet end;

(f) applying a plurality of layers of a second coating material, said second coating material being formulaically different from said first coating material on said cores of gum material inside said drum member as the cores proceed from said inlet end to said outlet end;

(g) drying ~~each of~~ said coated layers ~~of coating material~~ on said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said drum member; and

(h) inclining said drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said drum member;

wherein a smooth, thick shell of substantially uniform thickness of coating materials is formed on each of said pieces of gum material comparable to coatings formed by batch-type

coating processes, and in a faster manner.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 13 wherein said first coating material and said second coating material ~~is a material containing~~ each comprise a gum Arabic material.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 14 wherein the gum Arabic material is approximately 1% by weight of said first coating material ~~in the initial layers of coating material,~~ and the gum Arabic material is ~~reduced to~~ approximately 0.25% by weight of said second coating material ~~in subsequent layers of coating material~~.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 15 wherein said first coating material and said second coating material ~~is a~~ are sugar syrup materials.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 13 wherein the sheets of gum material in step (a) are scored sheets of gum material.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method for continuously coating cores of gum material to provide a smooth, thick shell of coating material thereon comprising:

(a) continuously introducing cores of gum material into a first rotating drum member having an inlet end and an outlet end;

(b) transporting the individual pieces of gum material from said inlet end to said outlet end;

(c) applying a plurality of layers of a first coating material on said cores of gum material inside said first drum member as said cores proceed from said inlet end to said outlet end;

(d) drying each of said coated layers of said first coating material on said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said first drum member;

(e) inclining said first rotating drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said first rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said first drum member;

(f) transferring said cores of gum material ~~(a)continuously introducing cores of gum material~~ into an inlet end of a second rotating drum member;

~~(b)~~(g) transporting the cores of gum material from said inlet end to an outlet end of said second drum member such that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end are substantially the first cores of material to be exhausted from said outlet end;

~~(c)~~(h) applying a plurality of layers of a second coating material, said second coating material being formulaically different from said first coating material on said cores of gum material inside said second drum member as the cores proceed from said inlet end to said outlet end;

~~(d)~~(i) drying ~~each of~~ said coated layers ~~of coating material~~ on said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said second drum member, wherein said heated air is dehumidified prior to introduction into said second drum member; and

~~(e)~~(j) inclining said second drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said second rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said second drum member;

wherein a smooth, thick shell of substantially uniform thickness of coating materials is formed on each of said pieces of gum material comparable to coatings formed by batch-type coating processes, and in a faster manner.